

need and deserve special attention so that in the future we can prevent the kinds of problems that children have suffered from lead in paint, asbestos in schools, and pesticides in food.●

MAGRUDER PRIMARY SCHOOL

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased today to have the opportunity to give well deserved recognition to an exemplary elementary school. Magruder Primary School in Newport News has been selected as a U.S. Department of Education Title I Distinguished School.

At Magruder Primary, "hard work pays off" isn't just a motto, it's a way of life. In 4 years time Magruder's reading scores leapt 79 percent—from 1 percent of second-graders reading at or above their grade level in 1992 to 80 percent for the most recent school year. Having placed last in reading achievement tests in 1992, the school is now number five in Newport News.

Many hard workers are to be commended for this outstanding accomplishment: teachers, administrators, parents, business leaders and, of course, the students.

As a strong believer in parental involvement, I am thrilled that Magruder's home-school coordinator makes certain that parents are actively involved in their child's education. This individual's responsibilities run the gamut—from retrieving forgotten permission slips to providing parents with homework enrichment tips.

I would also like to offer a special acknowledgment to the business partners who sponsored home reading programs, special assemblies and student incentives.

Mr. President, as stated in a recent Newport News Daily Press article, Magruder's demographics had the school destined for supposed failure. Eighty-four percent of its students receive free lunches; 69 percent live with only one parent. Other schools should take note. If Magruder Primary School can improve its reading scores, others can too.

Magruder Primary School stands as a beacon for the wise use of Federal dollars. While we must reign in an often intrusive government, some government programs are clearly worthwhile. Title I funding for our Nation's schools is such a program. Title I funding has helped Magruder Primary achieve this important success.●

TOURISM ORGANIZATION ACT

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the bill introduced yesterday to establish a U.S. Tourism Organization, S. 1735. I am pleased to co-sponsor the legislation. Tourism is the second largest employer in my State and a critical component of my State's economic development. It is unfortunate that the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration [USTTA] has become a

victim of budgetary constraints, and I am pleased that S. 1735 will preserve a Federal role in crafting a coherent policy to promote the United States as a tourist destination. The bill will also provide for a repository of information to enable the tourism industry to develop a strategy to compete for the international tourism dollar. I hope that this new organization will become a model for public-private partnerships and will fill the void left by the elimination of USTTA.●

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, last month, when the Senate passed the Domenici-Wellstone mental health parity amendment by an overwhelming vote of 68 to 30, during our deliberations on the health insurance reform legislation, it was, in my judgment, a historic occasion.

Since President Jimmy Carter established his Commission on Mental Health, it has been clear to a number of us that, eventually, it would be in our Nation's best interest to ensure that those afflicted with mental illness are treated in the same manner as those afflicted with any other physical ailment. Unfortunately, probably primarily due to the stigma long attached to receiving mental health care, this has been a long and difficult process.

As I listened to the debate that Thursday evening and watched our colleagues vote, I kept thinking to myself how one individual, Senator DOMENICI, truly made a difference in the lives of our Nation's citizens. During the years we have served together in the U.S. Senate, I have been very pleased to work closely with him in a number of capacities, for example on the various Senate Appropriations subcommittees and, most recently, on behalf of our Nation's Native Americans.

Throughout our deliberations, our colleague has always made explicitly clear the importance of ensuring that the Congress and the administration, and ultimately the private sector, must, in fact, treat those afflicted with mental illness and their families in a humane and compassionate manner. Senator DOMENICI was willing to share with us his personal family experiences. I have no doubt that his resolve and persistence are the reasons that most of us voted on behalf of this important amendment.

I sincerely hope that the House-Senate conferees will ultimately accept the provisions of the Domenici-Wellstone amendment, as it represents excellent public policy. However, at this point, I just wanted to share my appreciation with my colleagues for the Senator from New Mexico's efforts over the years—he is truly the consummate public servant. All of us can learn from his dedication.●

IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues a unique conference which took place earlier this week—the sixth annual Southern Women in Public Service conference hosted in Birmingham, AL, by the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service. The theme of this gathering was "Coming Together to Make a Difference." Over the past 6 years, this event has become the most significant annual bipartisan gathering of women political and business leaders throughout the South. The event has grown each year but the purpose remains the same: to make government better, more effective and more responsive by bringing women into public service leadership.

As a board member of the Stennis Center, I have watched this organization consistently enable women to pursue public service careers by providing an avenue in an area of the country which needs it more than any other. This challenge is illustrated by the fact that only 1 of 8 women in the U.S. Senate is from the South; 1 Southern State has never elected a woman to statewide executive office while another has never sent a woman to Congress; 9 of the 11 States which rank lowest in the percentage of women in State legislatures are in the South and no Southern State currently has a female Governor. I can tell you however, Mr. President, this will not be the case for much longer. This conference is changing attitudes by its very visibility in training and inspiring women for appointed and elected office each year. In fact, the Stennis Center was credited this week as the last great glass ceiling breaker. Much credit goes to former Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, who serves as the chair of the conference year after year. She is an inspiration for many women and she is continuing to use her platform to define public service for others. Quite simply, Lindy is contagious.

Recently, our Nation celebrated the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage—to coin a phrase, women have come a long way, baby. We now have women serving in the public policy arena in nearly all capacities, yet the pace is agonizingly slow. In the early 1970's, only 4.5 percent of all State legislative seats were held by women. Today, 21 percent of the 7,424 State legislative seats in this country are held by women. Women hold 56 or 10.5 percent of the 535 seats in the 104th Congress. One State in the Union has a woman Governor—New Jersey, led by Christine Todd Whitman.

In 1994, four States had women Governors, including my own State of Oregon which was led by Barbara Roberts. Governor Roberts is currently teaching at the John K. Kennedy School at Harvard University. My State has a strong history of capable women serving in statewide and locally